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and spores. The unimportance of these characters, unless very marked, is quite generally recognized by workers on this group and has been frequently emphasized. An instance is afforded by a series of measurements of asci and spores of *R. pulveracea* from the various exsiccati. In these Mr. Ellis found a variation from 60–70 μ × 8–10 μ in asci and from 6–8 μ × 5–6 μ to 10–12 μ × 7–9 μ in spores. My measurements of the same species show a variation from 70 × 7 μ to 90 × 13 μ in asci; from 10 × 7 μ to 15 × 10 μ in spores. For *R. ovalis*, Ellis's measurements, as seen above, are 60–65 μ × 6 μ for asci; 8–12 μ × 5–7 μ for spores. I find asci as large as 85 × 7 μ, spores 10–12 μ × 6–7 μ. From a comparison of these figures it may be seen that on the basis of asci and spores we cannot even approximate a separation of the two species. It is my belief that *Rosellinia ovalis* (Ell.) is, at most, but a variety of *R. pulveracea* (Ehr.).

It should be noted that Saccardo attributes this species to New Jersey, whereas, it has so far been reported only from Utah. Misled by the statement "on sage-brush" he doubtfully refers to the host as *Salvia*.

BOTANICAL DEPARTMENT, CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

NEWS ITEMS

The sixth annual winter meeting of the Vermont Botanical Club was held in Burlington, on January 25th and 26th. Fourteen papers were presented.

"*The Gamophyllous*, a monthly magazine devoted to plant life in field, forest and garden," is the title of a recently established periodical. It is edited and published by Mr. Harry A. Bird of Plainfield, New Jersey.

An interesting paper entitled "An Ecological Study of the New Jersey Strand Flora," by Dr. John W. Harshberger was issued on December 31, 1900. It is extracted from the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Dr. David Griffiths, who received his advanced degree from

Columbia University last June, is now botanist of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Tucson, Arizona. His doctorate thesis, an important paper on the North American Sordariaceae is in press.

The appearance of "A Practical Text-Book of Plant Physiology," by Dr. D. T. MacDougal is announced for May 1st. The book will be suitable for use in the laboratory, will comprise about 350 pages with 150 illustrations, and will be published by Longmans, Green and Company.

Dr. Timothy Field Allen has donated his collection of Characeae to the New York Botanical Garden. The collection represents the accumulations of many years of active interest in this group of plants. It is rich in types and co-types and is doubtless one of the largest collections of Characeae in existence.

"Mosses with a Hand Lens," an introduction to the study of mosses, by A. J. Grout, Ph.D., of the Boys' High School, Brooklyn, is an attractive booklet of 73 pages, issued in December last. It contains descriptions of one hundred of the commoner and more conspicuous mosses in but slightly technical terms, with numerous illustrations.

"The Outline of the Course in Biology" in the Horace Mann School, by Professor F. E. Lloyd and Mr. Maurice A. Bigelow, has recently appeared as Vol. II., No. 1 of the Teachers College Record. The pamphlet contains the detailed outline of the course in botany and zoölogy and will be of interest to teachers of those subjects in high schools.

Mr. J. E. Kirkwood has accepted a position in Syracuse University, where he will take charge of the Department of Botany. Mr. Kirkwood is a graduate of Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon. He received the appointment of special Fellow in Biology, Princeton University, for the year 1898–99, on the completion of which he continued his studies at the New York Botanical Garden and Columbia University. His special work has been on the embryology of the Cucurbitaceae and on the food content and digestion in the coconut during germination.